OAC SEPTEMBER 2000

UPDATE

ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL

CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

ISSUE 6

New Board Members

Three new members have been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Ontario Arts Council since the last issue of *Update*. Mark Appel Q.C. (Toronto) is a partner at the law firm of Chappell, Bushell, Stewart LLP. He has served on the boards of the Canadian Stage Company, the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts, and the Toronto Operetta Theatre. Mr. Appel is currently a member of the Board of Visitors at Columbia University School of Law (New York) and a member of the Board of Directors at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (Austin, Texas).

Elfrieda Heinrichs (Toronto) is a long-time supporter of arts organizations in Ontario and has served on numerous boards. Her background in music has led to a lifelong attachment to this art form, with a particular interest in fostering choral music. She is the president of the Heinrichs Foundation; past president of the Ontario Choral Federation; and still serves on the Choirs Ontario Advisory Council. She is an honorary co-chair of the Dean's Committee at the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto. Mrs. Heinrichs served on the Board of the Association of Canadian Choral Conductors from 1990 to 1997.

George S. Taylor (St. Marys) is a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) who retired as CEO from the Labatt Brewing Company in 1995. Over the years he has volunteered his time for several arts organizations. He was chair of the Board of the Stratford Shakespearean Festival for the 1998 and 1999 seasons. He is a past board member of both the Canadian Opera Company and the Dancer Transition Resource Centre and is a member of the advisory council for the School of Visual Arts at the University of Western Ontario. He provided fundraising assistance for the Blyth Festival during the early difficult financial period.

OAC Names New Touring and Outreach Officer

Glenn Hodgins has been appointed to the new position of Touring and Outreach Officer at the Ontario Arts Council (OAC). This position has been redesigned to reinforce OAC's support to touring and outreach as an important element of arts in the community. Mr. Hodgins spent 12 years with Tafelmusik, most recently in the position as controller and director of operations.

Just prior to his arrival at OAC, Mr. Hodgins managed Tafelmusik's 15th European tour. He was a vital member of the Tafelmusik team that organized numerous national and international tours and created more than 50 CDs.

He is an accomplished musician himself, having received his A.R.C.T. diploma in piano performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music and a Bachelor of Music in piano performance from the University of Toronto. Mr. Hodgins has toured with Jeunesses Musicales

(continued on next page

HIGHLIGHTS

- New Board Members
- New Touring and Outreach Officer
- New Acting Theatre Officer
- Action Plan for Arts in the Communities
- Advisory Councils
- Payment of Advisory Panel Members
- Notice to Writers
- Ontario Contact 2000
- Awards News

and performs regularly with cellist Christina Mahler and clarinetist Nicolai Tarasov. He is also an avid canoeist and often leads groups on wilderness canoeing expeditions in remote regions of Canada, including the Arctic.

Mr. Hodgins reports to Steven Campbell, Director of Arts Education and Arts in the Community.

Acting Theatre Officer and Theatre Projects Officer

Brenda Kamino has been named the Acting Theatre Officer at OAC. Brenda will fulfil the duties normally carried out by OAC's Theatre Officer, Jan McIntyre, who is currently on extended leave.

The theatre sector has additional support from Lynda Hill, who will continue part-time as Theatre Projects Officer. Ms. Hill brings to this role her experience as director and dramaturge with a strong understanding of the independent theatre community.

Brenda Kamino is an actor, director, producer, and dramaturge. She is the founding artistic director of Toronto's Emerald City Theatre Company. From 1992 to the present, Ms. Kamino has been a member of the executive committee of the Canadian Actor's Equity Association. Since 1997, she has chaired the Professional Theatre Training Committee for Theatre Ontario. Ms. Kamino has served on juries for both the Canada Council and the Cultural Affairs Division of Metropolitan Toronto and has been an advocate for access and equity in the arts.

OAC Reinstates Payment of Advisory Panel Members

In recognition of the time commitment needed for our advisory panels to take part in OAC's grant assessment process, the OAC Board of Directors has decided to reinstate fees for advisory panels retroactive to April 1, 2000, the start of our fiscal year.

Notice to Writers

Because of the review of the literature sector, last year OAC's Writers' Reserve Program was delayed until mid-December. This year, we are happy to announce that the program begins on October 1 and runs to February 28, 2001. Writers must be recommended by a recommender publisher. Eligible publishers were notified of the program change in July. If you are an emerging or established writer and would like to receive an application, please contact Josée Bourbonnais at (416) 969-7417 or 1-800-387-0058 ext. 7417 or email at jbourbonnais@arts.on.ca

Ontario Contact 2000

Ontario Contact 2000, OAC's annual forum to bring touring artists to more communities across Ontario and the rest of Canada, will be held at the Jane Mallet Theatre in the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts in Toronto on November 17 and 18. In addition to showcasing artists in music, theatre, and dance, there will be components for visual artists and writers. Other features include an Internet café, mix and mingle sessions, and dynamic workshops for both artists and presenters.

Heading up the redesigned Contact 2000 are Glenn Hodgins, Touring and Outreach Officer, and Steven Campbell, Director of Arts Education and Arts in the Community. For more information on Ontario Contact, please go to www.arts.on.ca or call Orenda Yuzicapi at (416) 969-7462 or 1-800-387-0058 ext. 7462 or email at oyuzicapi@arts.on.ca

New Advisory Councils

The selection process for the advisory councils is not yet finalized. If you are still interested in serving on one of these councils, please contact Georgia Steele, Assistant to the Director of Arts Programs at (416) 969-7404 or 1-800-387-0058 ext. 7404.

OAC Launches Action Plan for Arts in the Communities

OAC headed into summer by announcing its **Action Plan for Arts in the Communities** for the coming years. The plan is OAC's response to recommendations presented in the spring to OAC's Board by the independent **Task Force on Arts in the Community** .

In her remarks to both media and arts community representatives, Donna Scott, O.C., CEO, noted that "while we have done a great job of the first part of OAC's mandate – *fostering the creation and production of art* is the second part – *for the benefit of all Ontarians* where we still have ground to cover."

At the moment, there are OAC grant recipients in 232 Ontario municipalities, and our arts education programs reach 75% of the province's boards of education. The goal of OAC's *Action Plan for Arts in the Communities*is to ensure that all of OAC's programs and services are made available to every municipality in the province and to support the arts in every board of education in the province.

Action Plan for Arts in the Communities: Key Strategies

- OAC will initiate a major communications program to inform and invite municipalities, boards of education, and arts organizations to access OAC's programs and services;
- OAC will assist mentoring initiatives between arts organizations and municipalities;
- OAC will make available staff expertise to municipalities, boards of education and arts organizations throughout Ontario and provide information on a variety of resources (this particular strategy applies equally to all arts organizations including those in the larger urban centers); where no in-house expertise exists, OAC will establish a roster of experts who may provide technical assistance;
- OAC will expand the granting criteria in specific programs to support arts in the communities and ensure that programs are available to all arts organizations and artists throughout the province;
- OAC Officers will assist arts organizations in specific municipalities that are not currently reached by OAC;
- OAC's revamped Touring and Outreach program will place increased emphasis on reaching communities in the province that are located far away from the larger cities; in addition to performances, touring arts companies will include activities in the community with schools and community groups;
- Touring will expand beyond the performing arts to bring visual arts, media arts, and literature to municipalities;
- OAC reaffirms its commitment to the peer assessment process of juries and advisory panels with community representation on advisory panels; this ensures the important exchange of information between artists and community representatives;
- OAC will expand its current commitment to ensure that every jury and advisory panel has a minimum of one person from outside Toronto and a minimum of one member from the Aboriginal, Franco-Ontarian, or a culturally diverse community.

Last winter, the Ontario Arts Council and The Samuel and Saidye Bronfman Family Foundation jointly sponsored the **Task Force on Arts in the Community**. The three-member team prepared a report for public and private funders following a series of consultations with representatives from more than 50 communities. The Task Force report focuses on how best to strengthen the health of arts organizations and artists by identifying ways to help them build audiences, expand artistic work, and broaden their community base. Its recommendations are largely captured in OAC's Action Plan.

OAC's Action Plan and the Report from the Task Force on Arts in the Community are both available on the Web site at www.arts.on.ca

Awards News

The 2000 Ruth Schwartz Children's Book Award were announced on April 27, 2000. Montreal writer **Marie-Louise Gay** took home the $3,000 prize in the picture book category for *Stella, Star of the Sea*, a book she also illustrated. Toronto writer **Kenneth Oppel** won the $2,000 prize in the young adult/middle reader category for *Sunwing*.

On May 15, 2000, the 2000 Chalmers Awards were presented in Toronto. The following winners each received a cheque for $25,000.

Jean A. Chalmers National Visual Arts Award – **Jana Sterbak**, Montréal

Jean A. Chalmers National Crafts Award – **Paul Mathieu**, Vancouver

Jean A. Chalmers National Dance Award – **Evelyn Hart**, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Winnipeg

Jean A. Chalmers National Music Award – **Piano Six**, concert pianists: Janina Fialkowska, Angela Cheng, Marc-André Hamelin, Angela Hewitt, André Laplante, and Jon Kimura Parker

M. Joan Chalmers National Award for Arts Administration – **W.R. (Bob) McPhee**, General Director & CEO, Calgary Opera Association

M. Joan Chalmers National Award for Artistic Direction – **Urjo Kareda**, Artistic Director of Tarragon Theatre, Toronto

M. Joan Chalmers Documentarian Award for Film and Video – **Patricio Henriquez**, Montréal, for *Images d'une dictature/Images of a Dictatorship*

The four winners of the Floyd S. Chalmers Canadian Play Awards are:

Linda Griffiths for *Alien Creature: A Visitation from Gwendolyn MacEwen*

Michel Tremblay for *Encore une fois, si vous permettez*

Ronnie Burkett for *Street of Blood*

Michael Healey for *The Drawer Boy*

The two winners of the Chalmers Canadian Play Awards – Theatre for Young Audiences are:

Gail Nyoka for *Mella Mella*

Leslie Arden for *The Happy Prince* based on the short story by Oscar Wilde

Stéphane Laforest, Assistant Conductor of the Orchestre symphonique de Québec, won the $5,000 Heinz Unger Award on May 16, 2000.

Theatre director **Darren O'Donnell** was presented with the 2000 Pauline McGibbon Award on May 19, 2000.

On June 3, 2000, **Bevan Keating**, of London, Ontario, won the $5,000 Leslie Bell Prize for choral conducting. **Mark Vuorinen** of Waterloo, Ontario, received an honourable mention and $1,000.

For information about awards and prizes, call Linda Brown, OAC Awards Officer at (416) 969-7464 or 1-800-387-0058 ext. 7464.

The application deadline for the Lieutenant Governor's Awards for the Arts is October 2, 2000.

Ontario Arts Council
151 Bloor Street West
5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 1T6
Telephone (416) 961-1660
Fax (416) 961-7796
Toll-free 1-800-387-0058
E-mail: info@arts.on.ca
Web site: www.arts.on.ca

Cette publication existe également en français.